these later workmen of plagiarism, and, as hinted by Pausanius, lead us to suppose that Pericles, wishing to adorn Athens, sent to Asia Minor for workmen. This monument, he urges, would indicate the employment of Ionians as the designers of the finest of Athenian works.

The difference between the Parthenon and some of the rudest of the Egyptian temples is very great: the difference between the Parthenon and the Greek temple which immediately preceded it in date of erection would be found to be very little.

In the last fasciculus of his note-book (the 85th), the contributor who writes under the signature of "Candidus" in the *Civil Engineer* urges very strongly the propriety of completing the exterior of the buildings of Somerset-place by giving a façade to that range of them which, originally shut out from sight and never intended to be seen, now shows itself far more conspicuously than advantageously along the east side of Wellington-street. The *Athenæum* says of it, "This is in fact a positive eyesore, disfiguring the approach to the noblest of our metropolitan bridges, and greatly impairing the effect of the river front of that pile of buildings. The magnificence of the latter is made to show as a mere mask to paltriness—and a mask so awkwardly put on that the ugliness which should be concealed is most of all visible. The fine architectural *ensemble* that would else be produced by the juxtaposition of two such noble works as Waterloo-bridge and the terrace front of Somerset-place is altogether marred by the shabbiness and vulgarity of the west wing of the last-mentioned pile:—a circumstance all the more provoking because it is most admirably situated, and an architectural façade just there would be peculiarly favoured both by aspect and other circumstances, and display itself in an unusually striking and happy manner. One peculiar and favourable circumstance is that the building stands back at such a distance from the foot pavement on that side of Wellington-street, that were there a handsome façade it could be viewed most distinctly and without interruption."

The same journal joins us in deprecating the removal of the Quadrant Colonnade. "Luckily, we do not require shelter from rain in this fine climate of ours:—so, as far as any public convenience is concerned, these colonnades may of course very well be dispensed with. But this destruction of a very marked and unique public architectural feature in a great city at the dictation of some private interests savours strongly of that spirit of jobbery which infests so many of our public institutions,—and haunts, no region of them all more offensively than that of art. In England, as yet, the artist has no chance against the shopkeeper:—the trading influence is too powerful for 'gods or *columns*.'"

A correspondent of the *Athenæum* writing from Zurich, says,—"Christian Schreiber's house might have been built, I should think, in most parts of England for 800*l*. at the outside. In this remote valley, where wood and stone are both at hand and abundant, he assured me, to my great surprise, that it had cost him 1,200*l*. The ironwork, he said, was very expensive; adding, indeed, that English ironware might be had at little more than half the price,—but that it was so good-for-nothing that nobody would use it, and that he and his neighbours preferred purchasing the wrought iron of their own smiths at nearly double the cost. Here, thought I, is a hint for Birmingham!"

Our new houses of Parliament have been copied in Berlin and made to form a cavalry barrack for the Ulanen regiment.

The Regent's Quadrant.—"A Traveller" writes to us as follows:—"Do you not think, that the monotonous appearance of the houses of the Regent's-quadrant might be very much relieved by a light ornamental iron balustrade along the upper part, similar to those which are generally adopted, with very good effect, in the new buildings in Hamburgh? The upper part always has looked frightful, and when the colonnade is removed will look ten times worse."

NON-LIABILITY OF DIRECTORS OF BENEFIT SOCIETIES TO ACTIONS AT LAW.

In the *City Small Debts' Court*, last week, a case was tried "Croft *v.* Lorimer," which may interest some of our readers. It was an action brought by the plaintiff as one of the shareholders of the Metropolitan and Suburban Benefit Building Society, to recover the sum of 4*l*. 15*s*. for money had and received for the use of plaintiff, by defendant, as one of the directors of the said society.

Mr. Buchanan appeared for the defendant, and admitted the payment of 3*l*. 15*s*. on account of a 100*l*. share in the society, and 1*l*. for fines, but denied the personal responsibility of defendant, who had merely countersigned the receipt given by the secretary, according to the rules, as the directors attending in rotation for that purpose. He contended that by the Act 9 Geo. IV. c. 92, s. 34, for the consolidation of the laws relating to savings banks, &c., no action would lie against a trustee or director, but that all matters in dispute might be decided by the adjudication of justices, or by arbitration, as agreed on by the rules, and by them the shareholders had elected to be bound by the latter course. Moreover that defendant was clearly only an agent for the society, and even on that ground could not be sued. In support of his argument he quoted the cases "Crisp *v.* Bunbury," Bart., 8 Bingham, 394, in which it was held that an action would not lie against the trustees of a savings bank, and "Tills *v.* Williams," 4 Q. B. reports, 413, in which defendant was trustee of Mildenhall bank for savings; that was an action in assumpsit, and the subject went before the court above, on a special case, when the court held that the intention of the Act was to prevent actions in the superior courts against trustees, as it was considered that the expense would lead to the ruin of the party bringing the action and the society, and that if trustees were to be held liable, no person would be found to accept such an office. Mr. Buchanan also quoted the 27th sec. 10, Geo. IV.

The plaintiff replied that the cases quoted did not rule the present one, and that in fact he made his demand on the ground that the society was not formed on the basis proposed when he took the share, and that the society had no right to alter the fundamental rules. The society was projected in November, 1846, and by the first rule it was decided that the society should be established by 400 subscribers, of 100*l*. each, to be advanced at the rate of 5*l*. per annum, and he took the share on these conditions, and he must urge that as the rules had been altered without his concurrence, so as to reduce the number of shares to the actual number of shareholders, the money he had paid had not been applied to the purpose for which it had been paid, the company not being formed till this year, and under the amended rules.

Several letters were put in, shewing the alteration in the rules, but the secretary stated that Mr. J. Tidd Pratt had sanctioned the new rules, and had expressed his opinion that they were legal.

Mr. Buchanan said that if the plaintiff admitted that the "society" was not established when he paid the money, he was clearly out of court, as he had sued defendant as a director. He urged that the most favourable construction for the defendant should be put on the cases quoted, as, if it was decided that directors were liable to actions, 400 or 500 would be brought.

The plaintiff said the learned judge had nothing to do with that, but would administer justice and the law as he found it. The defendant could not complain, for he (plaintiff) had been desirous to withdraw from his share, but was informed he could only transfer it, which he could not do as there was no company; it was obviously unjust that he should be bound to hold that which, at the time he made his application, was valueless, and its value rendered doubtful by the change made against his consent.

The judge, Mr. Commissioner Bullock, held that if there was no society formed at the time spoken of, defendant was improperly described, and if the society did exist then, that plaintiff's remedy was by arbitration; but he thought a question might have arisen if the argument had been that the cases quoted referred to the superior courts, and not to courts formed under the new Act for the establishment of county courts.

The plaintiff was then nonsuited.

ENCAUSTIC PAVING TILES.

Discovery of tiles at Worcester.

Ornamented tiles were formerly much used for paving the floors of sacred edifices, and their use was so generally confined to buildings of a devotional character, that whenever they are found in the remains of castellated or domestic mansions, there is good reason for supposing that a religious fabric had at some time existed on the spot—either a private chapel or other holy edifice. The earliest known specimens appear to be of the latter part of the twelfth, or the beginning of the thirteenth centuries, and on them the foliage has the characteristic trefoil of the period. Of this age, one of the most interesting examples was recently discovered at Woodferry, Oxfordshire, some of the tiles exhibiting the badges of Richard, King of the Romans, to whom the manor belonged. In the two following centuries the decorations were of a much more varied and elaborate character. The foliage was more elegantly and gracefully thrown, and exhibited great natural freedom. In the sixteenth century encaustic tiles appear to have been but occasionally used; but Flanders tiles of this period are sometimes met with: they are of foreign manufacture, and have their patterns depicted in superficial colours.

The devices impressed upon paving tiles consist for the most part of foliage, variously thrown; heraldric bearings, crosses, sacred symbols, geometrical figures, mounted knights, and grotesque figures of hideous forms, comparable only to fiends and demons. In many cases a single tile contains a complete pattern within itself; but sets of four, nine, sixteen, and other numbers, with a continuous pattern extending over the whole surface, are not uncommon.

Armorial bearings, badges, and cognizances, are perhaps the most useful and valuable decorations to the archæologist which tile paving presents. Heraldic remains are at all times valuable, and whether they are found depicted in all their gorgeous blazoning, on the stained glass of the windows, or on the monumental effigies of the great departed; or whether sculptured on the bosses, the brackets, or font, or impressed in the tiles of the pavement, they should be most carefully noted down and zealously preserved, as a single blazon or the badge of an illustrious house will frequently lead to the most successful research into the history and foundation of the building upon whose site it has been discovered.

The arms upon pavement tiles frequently exhibit the bearings of the lords of the manor and chase, as well as those of the monarch, and of founders and benefactors to the church, and their aid is therefore peculiarly valuable in tracing the descent of property.

Worcestershire gave us the first proofs of these interesting fictile decorations being the ancient manufacture of our own country, by the discovery within its boundaries of two kilns, in which had been baked many of the tiles which may yet be seen in the neighbouring churches. Some of these tiles are of the finest character, both for design and execution; but very few churches, either in this county or elsewhere, have sufficient portions of pavement remaining to show the mode of their original arrangement. Worcester Cathedral possesses, although hitherto unknown, perhaps one of the finest and most extensive series of original arrangement in existence.

When I arrived in Worcester to attend the present Congress, and examined the magnificent cathedral, I could barely find a score of tiles, with the exception of the justly celebrated monumental cross in the Lady Chapel; but having been told by a gentleman that he *believed* there were a few in the old singing-school attached to the cathedral, I proceeded thither, and while examining it, I also carefully explored the adjoining rooms and passages, and had the extreme gratification of discovering, beneath the accumulations of ages, one of the

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